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Annual Visit Report '57.

discovered during an air survey in March. This was remedied by re-airing stoppings. Two more connections were made between the Nos. 6 and 5 levels so that there are now three openings between these levels. (One connection was reported in the Annual report for 1956). These openings apparently had the effect of causing the air to descend to No. 6 level with the majority of air going off at Nos. 4 and 6 levels and leaving a negligible amount of air to flow along No. 5 level. This was corrected late in the year by installing a door on No. 4 level and now more air circulates beneficially through the workings above No. 5 level. Mining operations above No. 4 level is limited. A Sirocco 60" diameter two stage Acroto Mine fan is to be installed on the ventilation shaft and this is expected to further improve the ventilation on the mine.

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This company was visited twice during the year, once as a routine inspection in August, and again in October for a Board of Reference. (This Board of Reference was covered in the earlier part of this report).

Wittenoom mine: The intake airflow was measured in August at 32,650 cfm. whilst the 60" axial flow exhaust fan exhausted 50,625 cfm. The discrepancy can only be accounted for by ineffective sealing of old adit openings and a poor stopping at the fan. Only limited mining was proceeding in the mine and the 32,650 cfm. was quite adequate. Mining operations at this mine were stopped on October 4th.

Colonial mine: 68,500 cfm. was being exhausted by the 60" axial flow fan installed in the northern cliff opening whilst the intake totalled 60,700 cfm. This intake was made up of 28,750 cfm. through the main adit, 27,000 cfm. through No. 3 level, 4,950 cfm. (fluctuates) through No. 2 level and a fluctuating amount (may even reverse) through No. 1 level. These figures indicate a large volume of air passing through the mine, but the path taken by the air is variable. There is no positive airflow through the intake openings and no constant path adopted by the air. This can be attributed to the air currents in the gorges and along the walls of the gorge.

No. 4 level is being developed and a connection through to the cliff face is anticipated in the new year. A slope drive from No. 3 level connected to a chute and manway cut up from No. 4 level and there is a through airway by the Main adit. When No. 4 level connects to the cliff face ventilation doors will be installed in No. 1 level to increase the amount of air flowing along Nos. 3 and 4 levels. The majority of the stoppings will then be close to these levels.

Dust at the discharge from the Ore conveyor belt was causing a hazard and to eliminate it, a box was placed around the discharge pulley and an exhaust fan discharging to atmosphere outside the mine was installed.

Construction of a new treatment plant at the Colonial mine has commenced. The high elevation of the entrance to the mine on the gorge face and the fall into the valley of the gorge should assist in the plant layout. It is to be noted that provision for dust collection, at least similar to and possibly improved on that now at the Wittenoom plant, has been made.

PHILIPS RIVER GOLDFIELD.WATERLOO CEMENT WORKS LTD.

N.B. Figures in red on table 17.9.57